

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for a transportation carrier to maintain sufficient quantities of ~~raw~~ dry bulk materials at a remote manufacturing site comprising:

generating a first signal representative of an existing ~~raw~~ dry bulk material quantity at a remote site;

transmitting a second signal corresponding to said first signal, from said remote site to at least one of a local computer and a central computer at predetermined time intervals;

determining said existing ~~raw~~ dry bulk material quantity and projected material usage rate for said existing ~~raw~~ dry bulk material quantity based on said transmitted signals;

ordering additional ~~raw~~ dry bulk materials from a preselected vendor based on said existing material quantity and said projected material usage rate;

providing a transport vehicle to deliver said additional ~~raw~~ dry bulk material from said preselected vendor to said manufacturing site; and

transporting said additional ~~raw~~ dry bulk material from said
preselected vendor to said manufacturing site,

whereby additional ~~raw~~ dry bulk material is supplied to said
manufacturing site before said existing ~~raw~~ dry bulk material is depleted.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further
comprising:

displaying at least one of said determined existing material quantity and
said projected usage rate on said central computer.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 17 further~~
~~comprising:~~ A method for a transportation carrier to maintain sufficient quantities
of dry bulk materials at a remote manufacturing site comprising:

generating a first signal representative of an existing dry bulk
material quantity at a remote site;

transmitting a second signal corresponding to said first signal, from
said remote site to at least one of a local computer and a central computer at
predetermined time intervals;

determining said existing dry bulk material quantity and projected
material usage rate for said existing dry bulk material quantity based on said
transmitted signals;

ordering additional dry bulk materials from a preselected vendor
based on said existing material quantity and said projected material usage rate;
providing a transport vehicle to deliver said additional dry bulk
material from said preselected vendor to said manufacturing site; and
transporting said additional dry bulk material from said preselected
vendor to said manufacturing site,
whereby additional dry bulk material is supplied to said
manufacturing site before said existing dry bulk material is depleted; and
producing at least one of an audible and a visual alarm, via said central
computer, if said material level falls below a predetermined level.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 17~~ A method for a
transportation carrier to maintain sufficient quantities of dry bulk materials at a
remote manufacturing site comprising:

generating a first signal ~~wherein said generation of a first signal~~
~~relative to an existing raw material quantity at a remote site using a detector~~
~~comprises using~~ representative of an existing dry bulk material quantity at a
remote site using one of an ultrasonic and a strain gauge detector to generate
said first signal;

transmitting a second signal corresponding to said first signal, from
said remote site to at least one of a local computer and a central computer at
predetermined time intervals;

determining said existing dry bulk material quantity and projected material usage rate for said existing dry bulk material quantity based on said transmitted signals;

ordering additional dry bulk materials from a preselected vendor based on said existing material quantity and said projected material usage rate;

providing a transport vehicle to deliver said additional dry bulk material from said preselected vendor to said manufacturing site; and

transporting said additional dry bulk material from said preselected vendor to said manufacturing site,

whereby additional dry bulk material is supplied to said manufacturing site before said existing dry bulk material is depleted.

21. (Canceled)